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Report of Major General
Love, of the Indiana Legion

REPORT

OF

MAJOR-GENERAL LOVE,

OF THE

INDIANA LEGION.

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INDIANA LEGION.

REPORT

OR

MAJOR-GENERAL LOVE.

HEADQUARTERS INDIANA LEGION,

Indianapolis, December 26, 1862.

His Excellency, O. P. MORTON,

Governor of Indiana:

Sir:—On the 10th day of September, 1861, by order of your Excellency, I assumed command of the Indiana Legion, organized under the act of the Legislature, approved May 11, 1861. Your order found me in command of Camp Morton, (where I had been since the three months' Western Virginia campaign,) organizing the troops preparing by the State for the service of the General Government. On being relieved from that duty, I made a personal inspection of the condition of the Legion in that part of the State more immediately demanding organization and attention, comprising the counties of Floyd, Harrison, Crawford, Perry, Spencer, Warrick, Vanderburg, Posey, Clark, Jefferson, and Switzerland. Important military duties called me to headquarters before visiting the counties of Ohio and Dearborn. In all those counties a fair supply of arms was found to have been previously furnished by your order, but the organization was not as efficient as the times demanded.

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Through public meetings, and assisted by the prominent citizens of those counties, the public attention was aroused, and a more efficient organization commenced. When I first visited the border, as before stated, the citizens had become somewhat discouraged as to the practicability of keeping up a home organization, sufficient for defense.

It is due the citizens of the border counties to say, that at the commencement of the war they organized with spirit in every county, but that their military organizations in the Legion were repeatedly broken up by volunteering into the general service. In several counties entire companies of the Legion volunteered for the war. It has always been the policy of those connected with the Indiana Legion, to encourage the volunteering of all whose duties and relations were such as to enable them to enter the volunteer service. Besides the reduction of the ranks by volunteering, inconsiderate and thoughtless persons, who did not appreciate the threatened danger, in some localities, added to the embarrassment of the organization, by an invidious comparison with troops preparing for more active duties in the field.

While the law enacted by the last Legislature may have been the best that could have been made under all the circumstances, it is the experience of all connected with the Legion, that it can not be relied on for an effective militia. The law makes the organization a purely voluntary one. No better evidence of the inefficiency of this principle alone, can be adduced, than that, with few exceptions there is not a military company in any county except those on the immediate southern border, where the troubles in our neighboring State of Kentucky made an organization necessary for the protection of person and property, and thereby brought to the aid of the law another principle—that of self-defense.

Here it may be proper to call your attention to the unequal burden that the citizens of the southern counties have been called upon to bear, in comparison with those more remote from the border.

Since the inauguration of the system of guerrilla warfare in Kentucky, the Legion and citizens of the southern counties have been almost continually under arms. While the citizens of other parts of the State have been enjoying security as to person and property, the citizens of the southern border have been guarding the State, and have been, in many counties, making as many sacrifices, and enduring almost as many hardships as our soldiers in the

field. The burden of the war should be distributed equally upon all citizens of the State.

The Legion on the southern border has been largely drawn upon by loyal citizens of Kentucky in times of danger from guerrillas, and has been called upon by the officers of the General Government in command in Kentucky, all of which is set forth in the reports of the colonels of regiments.

The military defense of the State has fallen upon a few, and that without other aid from the State than the arms and equipments furnished.

The military fund appropriated by the last Legislature has never been distributed. I would suggest that the attention of the Legislature be called to the subject of distributing this fund, with such addition to it as may be necessary to remunerate, in part at least, those companies of the Legion who have, at their own expense, borne this burden.

I would respectfully suggest, as an amendment to the military law, that all citizens liable to military duty, should be enrolled and organized; that from this number an active force of from ten to twenty thousand should be apportioned and organized throughout the counties of the State, in proportion to their population, and to secure this force, exemptions and bounties should be such as to make it desirable for all to enter the ranks wherever there may be a vacancy. Such a force would give to each county from one to two hundred men. This service would thus become honorable and effective, and would secure a reliable force around which all could rally in time of danger.

The able report of General A. C. Downey, commanding the Fourth Brigade, and his colonels, Williams of Ohio county, and Burkam of Dearborn, show that the Legion in the southeastern part of the State were called into active service during the threatened raid of Kirby Smith; that the Brigade under General Downey, with some companies of Colonel Spooner's regiment of United States Volunteers, succeeded in preserving good order, and doubtless by their efficiency prevented any attempt on the part of lawless men, emboldened by Kirby Smith's advance, from crossing the Ohio river. The Legion in Dearborn and Ohio counties has not been called into active service as frequently as in some of the other counties bordering on the Ohio river. Still they have done much guard duty, and have always been ready for any emergency.

I would call attention to that part of General Downey's report, touching the requirements of a good military law.

In the county of Switzerland the Legion has been as well organized, and has done as much service as any regiment in the State. The report of Lieutenant-Colonel Stepleton is inclosed, and while it gives full credit for the service performed since his connection with the regiment, (in September, 1862,) still is not as full as could be desired. Colonel Ormsby, who commanded the regiment from its organization, is absent from the county, and has made no report.

This regiment has of necessity done much guard duty, owing to the unsettled condition of the county in Kentucky immediately opposite Switzerland; has, on several occasions aided the authorities in Kentucky, on their application, in preventing acts of violence; has, on two different occasions, promptly furnished companies to guard prisoners of war at Camp Morton, in one instance at a great pecuniary sacrifice, as the call was made while in the midst of their harvest. During the last excitement in Kentucky, growing out of the advance of Kirby Smith's forces, the companies of Captains Pavey, Lancaster, and Liepenthal are particularly mentioned by Lieutenant-Colonel Stepleton as on duty for three weeks, guarding the fords of the Ohio. No compensation has been received by any of the companies of this regiment, excepting those on duty at Camp Morton, and those only while on duty there. The companies on duty at Camp Morton were mustered into the United States service for three months, and when troops were needed during the advance of Generals Bragg and Smith, volunteered for duty in Kentucky, and rendered valuable service.

Three companies of the Legion, of Jefferson county, reported to General Anderson, at Louisville, in September, 1861, during the excitement occasioned by the threatened attack of Buckner. At the same time six companies were on duty in the county during that excitement. In May, 1862, three companies responded to your order to guard prisoners of war at Camp Morton, were mustered into the United States service for three months, and during this service volunteered for duty in Kentucky. Two of these companies, under Captains Woodfill and Purell, were in the battle of Richmond. In June following, another call was made for duty at Camp Morton, and Captains Monroe, Richardson, and Patten, reported with their companies, and served two months. Captain Monroe's company afterward guarded the exchanged

prisoners to Vicksburg. In September, Captain Fowler's artillery, and Captains Richardson and Patten's companies, were called out to guard the border during the threatened danger which has been before alluded to. The Legion of this county has been well organized, and under their efficient Colonel, L. B. Sering, have done much service. The report of Colonel Sering is inclosed.

The field officers of the Legion organized in Clark county, volunteered in the United States service, and not until within the past month has this regiment had a colonel. The report of the colonel, John F. Willey, shows that the companies organized in this county were on duty during the excitement in September, guarding the fords of the Ohio. Colonel Willey reports his regiment in good condition.

The regiment of the Legion in Jennings county, commanded by Colonel R. Brown, was on duty, at Camp Morton, for six weeks, and his report states that his regiment was ordered to be in readiness to march at a moment's notice, during the excitement of September last; that in eighteen hours his regiment was in Vernon, and remained until notified that the danger was passed. This regiment is the only one that has responded entire for duty at Camp Morton.

The report of General John L. Mansfield, commanding the brigade composed of the regiments of Clark, Jennings, Jefferson, and Switzerland is inclosed, and your attention invited for a more detailed account. From General Mansfield's experience, his services have been invaluable to the State, and have been cheerfully rendered.

I would call your attention particularly to the report of Colonel E. A. Maginnis, commanding the Seventh Regiment, in the county of Floyd. The Legion in this county seems to have been largely drawn upon for the general cause. The organization was first under Colonel Scribner, afterward under Colonel W. W. Tuley, and since last September, under Colonel Maginnis. Knapp's Battery, by order of General Anderson, while he commanded in Kentucky, supported by two companies of infantry of the Legion, guarded the approach to Louisville by the Salt river route, for nearly three months. The accounts of these companies have not been satisfactorily adjusted. One company of the Legion, under Captain Brown, responded promptly to your call, last spring, to guard prisoners of war at Camp Morton, and was on this duty for three months. The Legion of Floyd has also rendered good

service guarding gunboats and public property removed from Louisville to New Albany.

The regiment commanded by Colonel Lewis Jordan, in the county of Harrison, has done their full proportion of service; for a week they were in camp, during the danger threatened by the approach of Bragg's army, and from the report of Colonel Jordan, it will be seen that protection was afforded to Union families of Kentucky, by the command sent under Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin, to Brandenburg. This regiment has been well organized from the passage of the law.

In the county of Crawford, the regiment commanded by Colonel John P. Morgan was called upon for much active service during the excitement occasioned by the march of Bragg's army into Kentucky, and the consequent rising of guerrillas along our entire border. Colonel Morgan's report is referred to for a detailed statement.

By referring to the report of Colonel Charles Fournier, commanding the Fifth Regiment, you will see that the Legion of Perry county have been actively engaged, and have done good service in assisting, from time to time, the authorities of the neighboring counties of Kentucky, have kept good order within their county, and now number eight hundred and fifty effective men, well armed.

I would call especial attention to the report of Colonel J. W. Crooks, commanding the Fourth Regiment, in the county of Spencer. This report shows that the Legion of Spencer county assisted loyal Kentuckians while organizing under the late lamented Colonel Nettier, at Owensboro; that in September last, when the guerrillas attacked Owensboro, and killed Colonel Nettier, the Legion of Spenceer county came promptly to the rescue; that after marching twenty miles, they took possession of the town the same day; the next morning marching out eight miles, where they learned the enemy were in force, gave them battle, and although largely outnumbered, completely routed them, killing thirty-six, and wounding and taking prisoners between seventy and eighty, besides capturing a number of arms, horses, &c., &c. When all the circumstances are considered, that the Legion of Spenceer county, at a moment's notice, made a fatiguing march, without even the preparation for the scanty comforts of a soldier in the field, and without hesitation gave battle to a foe superior in

number, and with the prestige of successful guerrilla warfare, too much praise can not be bestowed upon these gallant men.

The rout of this guerrilla band was the first serious disaster they had encountered since the commencement of their operations in the Green river country.

Subsequent events have shown that they never recovered from this defeat. I regret that Colonel Crooks' report calls upon us to mourn the loss of three killed and thirty-five wounded. The wounded, however, are all likely to recover, without serious permanent injury. The killed were Sampson Palmer, Isaac Varner, and Curtis Lamar; the two first leaving families, who were dependent upon them. I feel that I have only to mention their names to insure a recommendation of the Legislature that their families be placed on an equal footing with those of our volunteer soldiers in the service of the United States, who have fallen in the defense of their country.

The First Brigade of the Indiana Legion, under General James E. Blythe, has, from the exposed position of that part of our border composing Posey, Vanderburg, and Warrick counties, been called upon for more than their proportion of duty.

From the occupation of Bowling Green, by Buckner, till within a month past, that part of our border has been more or less threatened.

That portion of Kentucky between Greene and Cumberland rivers, till within a month past, has been the field of operations for guerrillas since the organization of that system of warfare.

To the detailed report of that zealous and energetic officer, Colonel Daniel F. Bates, commanding the Third Regiment, Warrick county, your attention is particularly invited. This regiment has done more duty, and the members of it made more pecuniary sacrifices, than probably any other regiment of the Legion. Some companies have been, for weeks at a time, constantly on duty guarding the border, and when called upon by the citizens of Owensboro, promptly responded.

The full and comprehensive report of Colonel Wm. E. Hollingsworth, commanding the Second Regiment, in Vanderburg county, which I inclose, shows that the Legion, in that county, number more than any county in the State, and all well armed. This regiment has been time and again called upon for duty in Kentucky, and has rendered great service to the general cause, in protecting the locks of Greene river, in going to the assistance of

Owensboro and Henderson, and has manifested a readiness at all times for duty. As General Blythe reports, "the fact of being at all times armed and ready, has no doubt saved Evansville from any attempt at depredation." The officers of the Legion, in this county, have always kept on hand a large supply of ammunition, which has been drawn upon, in times of danger, by the United States forces in the vicinity. It may be said that through the officers of the State of Indiana have been furnished the troops and supplies which, at this time, have given comparative peace and order to the Greene river country of Kentucky.

The detailed condition and operations of the First Regiment, in Posey county, are set forth in the report of Colonel John A. Mann, the efficient commander of the Regiment. This regiment was among the first organized in the State, and has, since the organization, done much valuable service. Union county, in Kentucky, has been regarded as containing as many sympathizers with secession as any county in that State. The activity displayed by the guerrillas of Union county, has entailed upon this regiment a vigilance which has saved the county from invasion.

The more exposed position of the district occupied by the First Brigade, and the more threatening condition of the enemy across the Ohio, has demanded more of my personal attention than any other part of the State. From personal knowledge, then, I desire to call your attention to the services rendered by General James E. Blythe. The duties imposed on General Blythe have been arduous and responsible. He has met every emergency promptly, and has discharged his duties with ability.

One or two companies are organized, under the law, in the counties of Marion, Decatur, Madison, Parke, and Gibson, but not having been called on for active duty, I have received no reports from them.

The reports of the officers above referred to, will show that the Legion, in every border county, has been called upon to sustain unusual burdens since the commencement of the war, as compared with the counties remote from the border, as has been before stated. It is hoped that the Legislature will take such action as may be necessary to adjust all claims.

Notwithstanding the defects in the present law, the Indiana Legion has, from the necessity arising from the unsettled condition of the border, and for self-defense, been kept in a comparatively good state of organization, has rendered good service to

the State, and, by their readiness to respond to the demands made by the State or General Government, added greatly to the military reputation of Indiana, which is acknowledged throughout the country. Permit me to say that the State is largely indebted to your Excellency for the reputation she has acquired, in the responsibility you assumed in organizing an arsenal, which has supplied ammunition not only to the Legion, but to United States forces in all parts of the west; in the responsibility you have assumed in purchasing a superior class of arms for our troops, in their general equipment, and in your care and watchfulness over the troops of Indiana in the field. The foresight you displayed, and the responsibility you assumed, have been justified by the emergencies which have arisen.

During the unusual excitement occasioned by the advance of Bragg's army, in September last, your Excellency issued a proclamation calling on all citizens of the counties on the border, to organize into military companies, and to drill daily. The order met with the hearty approbation of all, and was cheerfully complied with until your subsequent proclamation on the restoration of comparative peace and quiet in Kentucky.

The latter part of last summer, some lawless men, taking advantage of the unprepared condition of the town of Newburg, in Warren county, crossed the Ohio and committed some unimportant depredations. A band, calling themselves guerrillas, under one Adam Johnson, also took possession of Henderson, Kentucky where a United States Hospital was located, in which was some of the wounded from the field of Shiloh. Immediately on receipt of this information, your Excellency at the request of General Boyle commanding in Kentucky, called on the Legion, and for volunteers from different parts of the State. Colonels Gavin and Wilcox, being at the time at their homes in Decatur county, on a short furlough, at once organized a force of six hundred volunteers, and in thirty-six hours were in Evansville. Messrs. Orth and Hough, prominent citizens of Tippecanoe county, also placed themselves at the head of two hundred men, and reported at Evansville. The Union Rifles, an independent company, of Terre Haute, splendidly armed and equipped at their own expense, tendered their service and promptly reported at Evansville, under the command of Captain Tapping, who afterward, as commander of the gallant Seventy-First Regiment, fought so bravely with his regiment at Richmond, Kentucky, and fell, lamented by the whole State.

company of mounted men from Warrick, under Captain Bethel, was promptly organized and tendered their services. Also another company from Terre Haute, under Captain Riechart.

Your Excellency also called upon Captain Pennock, commanding the naval forces at Cairo. Captain Pennock responded in person, with the armed vessels Clara Dolson and Rob Roy, accompanied by an Illinois regiment, under Colonel More, and a battery of artillery under Major Starring, detailed for this duty by General Strong.

The force just described, was, by your direction, organized and equipped by me at Evansville, and were landed in transports at Henderson, Kentucky, just sixty-four hours after the raid on Newburg. We took possession of the town, sending out in the country a large force under Colonels Gavin and Wilder, in the hope of surprising this guerrilla party before the news of our approach could reach them. The troops thus hastily collected were mustered into the United States service.

After remaining a week at Henderson, I turned over the command to Lieutenant-Colonel John W. Foster, of the Twenty-Fifth Indiana, now Colonel of the Sixty-Fifth Indiana, who has been rendering, since that time, very efficient service. In the discharge of these duties, I was greatly assisted by my Aid, Major Reginald H. Hall, and my volunteer Aid, Colonel John F. Kibby.

Your Excellency will remember that the law provides that an annual encampment of the Legion may be held, but owing to the condition of National affairs, it was thought best to omit the exercise of that provision in the year 1861, that in the present year the same reasons discouraged the successful administration of a camp on a scale so comprehensive as the statute contemplated, and that considerations of economy, combined with a desire to promote the efficiency of the Legion, induced your Excellency to modify the plan of an encampment to the limits specified in your order of the 5th day of October, 1862. In pursuance of that order, a school of instruction was formed on the 16th of October, composed of the officers of the Legion, and of the militia called out under your proclamation. These officers assembled at Burnside Barracks, a new and complete cantonment erected near the city of Indianapolis. Between three and four hundred officers were promptly placed under regimental organization, consisting of six companies, each with the requisite number of company and subordinate officers. This organization was permanent during the School of Instruction.

Hours of duty were published in general orders, prescribing the routine of the camp. The first week was employed in theoretical and practical instruction in the manual of arms and squad drill, during the second week was added the company and battalion drill, and the members of the camp were as thoroughly instructed as the short duration of the school would allow. It was to be expected that gentlemen of the position and character of those who came up to that camp, with no other inducement than the ambition of acquiring information to be by them again disseminated to their commands at home, should be distinguished by a more than ordinary zeal. I can not too highly commend the zealous application and soldierly deportment of the members of the school, and trust that the information there acquired will in future redound to the honor of the State.

It has been my object to keep in as efficient a state as possible, under the limited powers granted by the law now in force, the organized companies of the Legion, making as few calls upon their time as the condition of affairs would allow, at the same time with the least possible expense to the State. Should it meet the views of the Legislature to adjust all reasonable claims for services and expenses of those actually engaged in common defense, (some of whom it is seen have fallen on the field of battle) it is believed the amount required will be much less than is usually required for the same service performed with corresponding benefits.

To Major Reginald H. Hall I am also under obligations for his valuable services at the School of Instruction, and his duties in the office.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LOVE,

Major-General Indiana Legion.

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